CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN), the method comprising the steps of:

a) connecting a subscriber's telephone line to an Internet Service Provider (ISP);

b) while said subscriber's telephone line is connected to said ISP, disabling an Internet Call Waiting (ICW) server;

c) when a telephone call is placed to said subscriber's telephone line, ascertaining whether a calling party has input a subscriber-defined access code;

d) connecting said calling party to said ICW server and enabling it, if said calling party has input said access code;

e) not connecting said calling party to said ICW server if said calling party has not input said access code; and

f) via said enabled ICW server, displaying caller identification information to said subscriber when a call has been connected to said ICW server to allow said subscriber to cause said call to be connected, or ignore the call.

2. The method in Claim 1 wherein said access code comprises a security code comprising a plurality of alphanumeric characters in a specific order as established by said subscriber.

3. The method in Claim 1 wherein said access code further comprises an ICW trigger code adapted to trigger the operation of said ICW server, said trigger code being established by the operator of said PSTN.

4. The method in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

g) performing step d only if the calling party number is permissible according to subscriber-defined screening criteria.

5. The method in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

h) performing step d only if current temporal aspects are permissible according to subscriber-defined temporal criteria.

6. The method in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:

i) performing step d only if the calling party number is permissible according to subscriber-defined screening criteria, and only if current temporal aspects are permissible according to subscriber-defined temporal criteria.

7. The method in Claim 1, wherein said calling party inputs said access code as part of a prefix to said subscriber's telephone number when said calling party places a call to said subscriber's telephone line.

8. The method in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

j) prompting said calling party to input said access code.

9. The method in Claim 1, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a subscriber-reviewable log of all telephone calls attempted to be made to the subscriber during a subscriber's Internet Call session.

10. The method in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

maintaining a subscriber-reviewable log of all telephone calls attempted to be made to the subscriber during a subscriber's Internet Call session; and

receiving subscriber-retrievable voice mail from calls that were not completed to the subscriber.

11. The method in Claim 1, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via a local switch.

12. The method in Claim 1, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

13. The method in Claim 2, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

14. The method in Claim 3, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

15. The method in Claim 4, wherein steps a) through e) and g) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

16. The method in Claim 5, wherein steps a) through e) and h) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

17. The method in Claim 6, wherein steps a) through e) and i) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

18. The method in Claim 7, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

19. The method in Claim 8, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

20. The method in Claim 9, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.

21. The method in Claim 10, wherein steps a) through e) are carried out via an Intelligent Network.